



## Alaska's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers FY15 Fact Sheet

### ***What are Alaska 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC)?***

21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs improve student achievement and nurture lifetime love of learning through academic assistance and engaging enrichment activities outside regular school hours. The program serves a wide variety of urban and rural students but targets those attending high-poverty and low-performing schools.

By offering academic, experiential, and project-based programming that align with and support the regular curriculum, these centers help working parents provide best possible learning environment for their children. Alaska's Department of Education and Early Development (EED) receives about 5.3 million federal dollars per year for 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC through Title IVB of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The department distributes the funds through a competitive process to school/community partnerships that design and operate the local programs.

### ***Who provides Alaska's 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs?***

During the 2014–2015 school year, 10 Alaska grantees operated **37 sites** throughout the state. All but two of the grantees were school districts:

- Anchorage School District
- Bering Strait School District
- Fairbanks North Star Borough School District
- Juneau School District
- Kake City School District
- Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District
- Nenana City School District
- Sitka School District
- Kenai Peninsula Boys & Girls Club (Nikiski)
- SERRC (Kotzebue)

More than 200 **organizations partnered** with Alaska 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC in 2014–2015, providing expertise, supplies and other resources in fields ranging from aviation to counseling and farming to robotics. Almost all programs operate within school buildings, which lowers costs and ensures a high-quality environment.

### ***Who benefits from Alaska 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC?***<sup>1</sup>

Alaska 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC primarily serves students attending **high-poverty schools** and especially targets their most **at-risk students**. Among students entering the program in fall 2014:

- 81% were eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.
- 18% were Limited English Proficient students.
- 19% were Students with Special Needs.

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<sup>1</sup> 21 APR, the new 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC federal data collection system

- One-third gave their ethnicity as White, one-third as Alaska Native, and 10% as two or more races. The rest were roughly evenly distributed among Black/African American, Hispanic. Pacific Islander, and Asian.

During the 2014–2015 school year, Alaska’s grantees served **3,850 students** in all grades, with the highest concentration in elementary school. Of those students **two-thirds (2,600) were “regular attendees”** (students who participated in at least 30 sessions during the year), and **nearly 3 in 10 (28% of all students) attended 90 sessions or more**. Approximately 550 students participated in **summer programs at seven centers** in FY15.

### ***What do Alaska 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grantees do?***

In a typical **week**, Alaska 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grantees provide **600 hours of programming**, including all federally approved activities. Alaska programs typically focus on:

- Academic enrichment and experiential learning
- Tutoring services and mentoring
- Mathematics and science education activities
- Recreational and team activities designed to promote health and social-emotional learning
- Arts and music education activities
- Cultural and other activities linked to the broader community

Other 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programming includes promoting parental involvement, language skills, expanded library hours, drug/violence prevention activities, and counseling.

### ***How do we know Alaska 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC works?***

Among regular 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC attendees in spring 2014<sup>2</sup>:

- **38%** of students below proficient the previous year in state **reading** assessments **attained proficiency**.
- **31%** of students below proficient the previous year in state **math** assessments **attained proficiency**.

Among regular 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC attendees in spring 2015<sup>3</sup>

- **56%** showed teacher-reported **improvement in homework completion** and **class participation**.
- **45%** showed teacher-reported **improvement in student behavior**.

Each program also establishes its own goals and measures and **must assess progress toward achieving those goals**. Each program uses its own outside evaluator who follows EED guidelines to help refine, improve, and strengthen the program.

### ***What other afterschool opportunities are available in Alaska?<sup>4</sup>***

- 25,600 (19%) of Alaska’s children participate in an afterschool program, including the almost 4,000 who participate in 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs.
- Another 45,400 children would participate in afterschool if a program were available.
- 31,400 Alaska students are without adult supervision in the afternoons.
- 75% of Alaska parents say that afterschool programs help working parents keep their jobs.

<sup>2</sup> The last year for which Alaska Standards Based Assessment data is available

<sup>3</sup> Op. cit.

<sup>4</sup> Afterschool Alliance, “America After 3PM,” 2014 data